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EGYPTIAN SEEKS ASYLUM
IN TEHERAN

Spy-Claim Discounted in Cairo

CPYRGHT

CAIRO - The claim that he had been a top secret agent working for the United Arab Republic, made by an Egyptian who sought political asylum in Iran, was discounted by sources here this week.

The authoritative newspaper Al-Ahram said on January 10 that the man concerned, Faisal Abdul Kader Owdeh, had been given a government post in 1962 and had left the U.A.R. last year.

The paper said Owdeh, aged 27, was the son of Abdul Kader Owdeh, who was convicted in the Moslem Brotherhood case in 1954 (for attempting to kill President Nasser.)

Al-Ahram said the son left the U.A.R. last year after being granted a visa on his request to look after work outside the country. He was employed by the "Valley and Contractors" company in Qatar, the paper said. It appeared, the paper continued, that he had been approached by Iranian agents. It was not yet known if he forged the story about being chief of the intelligence services in Egypt, or whether Iranian agents forged it for him, Al-Ahram said.

At a press conference in Teheran on January 11 Owdeh said he defected because life had become "unbearable in my home country." He said he got to Iran by way of the frontier at Abadan in south Iran eight days before.

Asked why he chose Iran he said he regarded it as the safest place for asylum because of "President Nasser's subversive agents in many Arab lands." He added he was prepared to reveal details of President Nasser's "aggressive plans."